

## **Acle Parish Council**

### **Clerk's report for Acle Parish Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

#### **1. Agenda items**

##### **1.1 Purchase of The Chocolate Box**

There has been some delay getting hold of all the necessary documentation that goes with a commercial building, and some of the searches are outstanding.

The Parish Council's solicitor anticipates being able to complete in about two weeks' time.

##### **1.2 Acle Foodbank**

The drop-off point is Acle Methodist Church, on Thursdays between 10 and 11am. We expect to pick up some new people who need a little help as the pandemic continues. Sally Aldridge will give an update on this at the meeting.

We've had a very generous donation of £262 from **Burlingham Cottage Gardeners** Association for the foodbank – they raised £131 with a pumpkin auction and then matched that with their own funds.

##### **1.3 Shop Acle and Resilience work**

Angela Bishop will give an update on this at the meeting.

##### **1.4 Remembrance Events**

I've ordered the wreath and paid over the Council's donation of £200.

Events are: on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> - 11am at rear of Recreation Centre, short event, open to all; 3pm in St Edmunds Church – by invitation only because of restrictions on numbers.

##### **1.5 Acle and District Men's Shed**

A committee has been set up. They are considering possible premises but are very keen to take on the Fletcher Room if/when the Pre-school moves into the former Barclays building. Grants and fund-raising monies can be banked with the Parish Council until their new bank account is open.

##### **1.6 Acle Lands Trust**

Three large ash trees in Damgate Wood had to be felled in Damgate Wood.

On the Constable Doles the SSSI fen has become covered with scrub. ALT volunteers have worked hard but need help with clearing the growth this year. P & R Reedcutters have quoted £1,100, (3 men over 3 days). The Trust would like to ask APC to pay this bill. The land is owned by APC and managed by the Trust, by a group of volunteers.

## 2 **Matters Arising from the Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> September**

2.1 The clerk has sent comments on the Government's Planning White Paper, and the earlier Changes to the Current Planning System, on behalf of APC.

2.2 Strumpshaw Parish Council have repaid £18,000 of their loan from APC for the building of their new village hall.

2.3 Acle Rec Centre have paid APC the annual instalment of £1,875 on their loan.

### 2.4 **Herondale**

In reply to my email about access to the site, Saffron said:

"Unfortunately it really was not possible to create an access directly from Bridewell Lane. Due to the positioning and density of the trees along the southern boundary of the site, and as they cannot be removed, this causes an obstruction and would not allow access.

The contractor will have a dedicated traffic marshal who will be allocated at the entrance of the site to control the safe access and egress of vehicles to and from the site. Following a meeting with the Medical Centre it was agreed that the contractor would look to position the marshal where the road bends round leading to Herondale and the Medical Centre entrance. The contractor will aim to arrange delivery and disposal of materials to minimise the effects of construction traffic during normal network peak periods.

A dilapidation survey will be carried out prior to work commencing on site and again at the end of the construction works. This will identify any damage caused to the road during the construction period and making good works will be undertaken to return it to the condition prior to work commencing.

Saffron now own the site but are still working towards finalising the contract with the contractor. We hope to start on site by the end of the month. We will keep you informed and notify you when we have a start on site date."

Saffron's ownership of the site extends along the access road from the Herondale site, past the medical centre, as far as the bend by the noticeboards. NCC retains the land around the library and the roadway adjacent to the west side of the library.

### 2.5 **Parking restrictions** – the consultation has finished.

NCC says that some objections were put forward:

Residents have objected to the proposed parking restriction between 10 and 11 am, weekdays, in Birtles Way and Priory Close, despite having allocated off-street parking spaces and/or driveways. Without restrictions, it is likely that both roads will, in due course, suffer from all-day parking by commuters but NCC may advise removing these roads from the scheme.

Residents have also objected to the parking bays on The Street, opposite Crossway Terrace. The restrictions were to allow parking for up to two hours, between 9 – 4, weekdays, to allow people to park for shopping and services. NCC will decided whether to remove the parking bays and the restrictions on that part of the road.

There is one resident in Reedham Road, in a terraced house, without any parking and would like to be able to park outside their property. The resident has objected to the planned double yellow lines on both sides of the road. NCC are going to decide whether it is better to hold out for double yellow lines, or to leave a gap in the double yellows to allow for a couple of cars to be parked. Any parking does restrict visibility for cars heading towards the underpass, but it could also be argued that parked cars do slow drivers down.

- 2.6 The clerk attended another online meeting with **Highways England**. It appears that no parishes have been successful in obtaining any of the delegated funds we were invited to apply for. The staff were unable to say why this was as they are all new staff since this latest scheme first started.

It was reported in the papers recently that Highways England is proposing to spend £7m to change its name from Highways England to National Highways.

- 2.7 The parochial church council have repaid the **loan** APC gave them for the re-thatching works.

### 3 **Correspondence Received**

- 3.1 The police have been asked to look at **traffic speeds** on Springfield.

The police are also monitoring parking in South Walsham Road at about 3.25pm, where there are usually about 10 cars parked on the single yellow line. The clerk will ask the school to add something to their next newsletter as it makes the road dangerous to drivers, and children.

PC Jackie Chambers asked if APC might fund a **poster campaign** asking children to design posters to put up around the village?

Jackie is arranging for some **speed checks** to be done on A1064 this weekend.

- 3.2 Simon Darter got in touch to say that the **Rec Centre's** bid for funding for **solar panels** was not successful.

- 3.3 Lovell's recent newsletter about the **Norwich Road** site was published on APC's website.

Residents were concerned that the tall metal fence erected along some of Mill Lane might be permanent, as it had been concreted in – but the developer has confirmed that it is only temporary and will be replaced with a wooden fence in due course.

- 3.4 Just a reminder that local groups can apply to be included in BDC's new **lottery**.

### 4 **Any Other Business**

- 4.1 Back in June APC discussed planting some **bulbs** to increase plants for pollinators. The clerk will buy some bulbs and ask someone to plant them around the village.

4.3 Adam Fisher has offered to try to find a **Christmas tree** for The Green.